



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Reminds Public of Outdoor Safety this Independence Day

Roanoke, Va. – The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture wants all visitors to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests to be safe this Independence Day holiday. Fireworks and other pyrotechnic devices are prohibited on national forests and grasslands year-round, regardless of weather conditions or holidays. Regulations are enforced and a violation is punishable, as a misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both.

Visitors are also reminded that despite recent rain showers and a cooler than normal summer, the potential for wildfires still remains. The Forest Service asks all visitors to ensure that all campfires are extinguished and cold to the touch prior to leaving them.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

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